The National Digital Newspaper Program and “Chronicling America”

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES and LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
The National Digital Newspaper Program

GOALS:

- To enhance access to historic American newspapers
- To develop best practices for the digitization of historic newspapers
- To apply emerging technologies to the products of USNP (United States Newspaper Program, 1984-2010)
  - 140,000 titles cataloged,
  - 900,000 holding records created,
  - more than 75 million pages filmed
Working with Newspapers

- Newspapers = fundamentals of history
- Broad user-base, high demand for access
- No single U.S. collection (distributed)
- Newspaper format challenges
- 100 million + frames of newspaper microfilm created by libraries and archives
The National Digital Newspaper Program

- **Enhance access to newspapers**, building on products of United States Newspaper Program*.

- NEH grants **2-year awards (up to $400k) to state projects**, to select and digitize historic newspapers for full-text access (100,000 pages per award).

- LC creates and **hosts Chronicling America Web site** to provide freely accessible search and discovery for digitized papers and descriptive newspaper records.

- State projects **repurpose NDNP contributions for local purposes**, as desired.
# Program Features

- Create an online resource that enhances access to historic newspapers:
  - Full-text search across state newspapers of the same time period (access by state, title, date, keyword).
  - Searchable directory of USNP title records and library holdings (140,000 titles) – helps researchers locate content when digital is not available.

- Establish *uniform selection criteria and digitization specifications*, applicable by all producers, to create manageable whole.

- Develop production tools to ensure good digital objects created by many can be managed and preserved over the long-term.

- Complement other digital resources through selection guidelines and scope.

- Enable program growth through phased, sustainable development for managing large-scale data collection.
NDNP: Current Activities

- Public site released in March 2007 –
  - now approx. 2.3 million pages
- 1860-1922
- 295 titles from 19 states and DC
- [http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/)
  - Updated quarterly
  - Next update = September 2010

- Annual competition for 2-year awards – 100,000 pages per award
  - 2007-2009 awards - CA, KY, MN, NE, NY, TX, UT, VA (1880-1910)
  - 2008-2010 awards - AZ, HI, MO, OH, PA, WA (1880-1922)
  - 2009-2011 awards - IL, KS, LA, MT, OK, OR, SC (1860-1922)
  - 2010-2012 awards - AZ, HI, MO, NM, OH, PA, TN, VT, WA (1836-1922)
  - and onward! (next award competition announced August 2010)
Beyond Chronicling America

- Weekly update/highlights information – by RSS* or email subscription - (http://www.loc.gov/rss/ndnp/ndnp.xml)
  - Keep up with what's in Chronicling America!

- Topics in Chronicling America (http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/topics/topics.html)
  - Tips from the Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room for exploring the history in Chronicling America and sample links to articles!

- Illustrated Newspapers in Flickr
  - Added to the LC Flickr Commons Photostream pilot project - http://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/collections/
  - Illustrated supplements from the New-York Tribune, 1900-1909
  - Tag it, add a note, see a slideshow, or make it a favorite!

- Linked data and API** access in Chronicling America
  - RDF/XML views available to Open Archives Initiative Object Reuse and Exchange (OAI-ORE) repository tools
  - OpenSearch and Atom APIs for search queries
  - Bookmarkable URIs for all pages
  - http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/api/
  - Blog it, Find it, Mash it up, and Mine it!

*RSS (Really Simple Syndication)
** API (Application Programming Interface)
Thank you!

- **NDNP Public Web**
  [http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/](http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/)

- **NDNP Web Service**
  *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*
  [http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

- **Contact us at** [ndnptech@loc.gov](mailto:ndnptech@loc.gov)